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It is surprising how well one recalls the time and place where a new plant has been found. Whether the species be orchid or alga, lichen or moss, it matters little; the experience seems to have photographed itself indelibly on our mind, and, while memory lasts, the circumstances and surroundings all arise untarnished at the evocation of the charmed name, and we live again in the scenes of Nature's loveliness in which it was our good fortune to first really meet and know the living thing which was then to us a new species.

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MOSSES FROM THE CASPIAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONS

WM. EDW. NICHOLSON

I have recently had the opportunity of going through a small collection of mosses made by my friend Mr. W. J. Parsons, who was with the British forces in northern Persia and Transcaucasia in 1917, and, as the district is not much visited by botanists, a list of the species gathered may be of some interest to the readers of THE BRYOLOGIST. The species are for the most part of general European distribution, although there are several of a definitely Asiatic distribution, such as *Barbula excurrens* Broth., *Tortula desertorum* Broth., *T. Bornmuelleri* Schiffn., and *Leucodon immersus* Lindb. The collections were made near the south shores of the Caspian, in the Elburz Mountains at the back of this, and in the neighborhood of Batoum on the Black Sea. I am indebted to Mr. H. N. Dixon for assistance in identifying some of the less well-known species in the following list:

Ditrichum pallidum Hampe. Near Batoum.

Pleurochaete squarrosa (Brid.) Lindb. Near the Caspian. Part of the gathering is considerably more robust than any form which I have seen from the British Isles, but it otherwise agrees with the type in all essential respects, and I have found a somewhat similar form in the island of Majorca.

Barbula convoluta Hedw. Near the Caspian.

B. excurrens Broth. Mr. Dixon refers a small gathering of a stunted plant from the Elburz Mountains to this species with some hesitation.

Crossidium squamigerum (Viv.) Jur. Elburz Mountains.

Tortula desertorum Broth. Near the Caspian; growing with *Pleurochaete squarrosa.*

T. Bornmuelleri Schiffn. Elburz Mountains. This plant is very closely allied to the last species, ol which it has the appearance of being an undeveloped form. Mr. Dixon expressed a doubt as to whether it is specifically distinct.

Grimmia campestris Burch. Elburz Mountains.

Webera nutans Hedw. Elburz Mountains.

Bryum atropurpureum W. & M. Near the Caspian.

B. argenteum L. Near the Caspian.

Catharinaea undulata (L.) W. & M. Near Batoum.

C. angustata Brid. Near Batoum, c. fr.

Polytrichum commune L. Near Batoum.

Leucodon immersus Lindb. Near Batoum, c. fr., and near the Caspian, sterile.

Amblystegium varium Lindb. Near the Caspian.

Brachythecium populeum B. & S. Near Batoum.

B. purum (L.) Dixon. Near the Caspian.

Eurhynchium euchloron (Bruch.) Jur. & Milde. Near the Caspian; nice gatherings of this characteristic species of the district. One of them is of a very vivid green to which no doubt the plant owes its name.

E. tenellum (Dicks.) Milde. Near the Caspian.

Hypnum cupressiforme L. Near the Caspian, and also near Batoum.

The only hepatics in the collection were small fragments of *Radula complanata* (L.) Dum., and *Frullania dilatata* (L.) Dum., both from near the Caspian.

LEWES, ENGLAND, 18 OCT., 1920.

REVIEWS

I. NEW AND INTERESTING SOUTH AFRICAN MOSSES, by H. N. DIXON, M. A., F. L. S. (With plates XI and XII.)

This is a reprint from the Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa, vol. VIII, part 3, 1920; Cape Town. Published by the Society. The paging is unchanged and includes pp. 179 to 224.

The author enumerates 180 species. Many of these are accompanied by critical notes. It is a pleasure to follow this diligent author in his gentle but relentless processes of reduction. Just as, in his Australian Antarctic Expedition report, jointly with Rev. Watts, Mr. Dixon traced the identity with *Bryum antarcticum* of *B. filicaule*, *B. Gerlachei*, *B. inconnexum*, *B. austro-polare*, and "probably *B. algens;*" so, in this paper, he has worked out in several cases the identity of African species described by different authors. In his introduction he states that while identity does not exist in very many cases between African and North Temperate species, he is "convinced it exists in a certain number of plants where it has hitherto not been recognized." In this he was confirmed by some gatherings from high mountain elevations. This furnished an interesting parallel to the entomological observation, made some years ago in the higher mountains of New England, which showed the insect life near the tops of the mountains remarkably related to the European mountain insects. Mr. Dixon thus points out the identity with *Bryum alpinum* Huds. of *B. afro-alpinum*, and probably of *B. Wilmsii*. *Bryum Muhlenbeckii* has several named African species indistinguishable from it. *Polytrichum flexicaule* and *commune* are identical. Several Tortulas described by C. Mueller are entirely identical with *Tortula ruralis*.

The author is critical in the correction of some spellings. Thus, on p. 185, *Campylopus inchangae* is shown to be the right spelling from among four.

The new species described and figured are: